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Dr. Blanck is University Professor at Syracuse University, which is the highest faculty rank granted at the University. He is Chairman of the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI), which seeks to advance the civic, economic, and social participation of people with disabilities (http://bbi.syr.edu). Blanck received a Juris Doctorate from Stanford University, where he was *President* of the Stanford Law Review, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from Harvard University. Blanck is Honorary Professor, Centre for Disability Law & Policy, at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Blanck has written widely on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related laws, and received grants to study disability law and policy. He is Chairman of the Global Universal Design Commission (GUDC; http://www.globaluniversaldesign.org/), established to develop Universal Design (UD) standards for buildings, products and services, and UD voluntary consensus standards. He is a founding member of Raising the Floor USA (RtF; http://raisingthefloor.org/ ), which seeks to make the web and mobile technologies usable by people with disabilities and others regardless of economic status.

Blanck is a former member of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, was a Senior Fellow of the Annenberg Washington Program, and a Mary Switzer Scholar. Prior to teaching, Blanck practiced law at the Washington D.C. firm Covington & Burling, and served as law clerk to the late Honorable Carl McGowan of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Blanck's recent books in the area include: Disability Civil Rights Law and Policy (with Hill, Siegal &Waterstone) (West, 2009); Race, Ethnicity, and Disability: Veterans and Benefits in Post-Civil War America (with Logue) (Cambridge University Press, 2010); Towards a Right to the Web for People with Cognitive Disabilities (forthcoming).

### TITLE OF THE PRESENTATION:

THE RIGHT TO THE WEB AND THE CLOUD:  LEGAL AND POLICY ISSUES

### SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTATION:

I frame my remarks around legal and policy efforts, from the past, in the present, and I believe to come in the future, regarding pursuit of the right to the World Wide Web ("web") in the U.S.  I discuss the implications for equal enjoyment in web use by people with disabilities and for web policy and Cloud Computing.  The roadmap to measure equality in web use is set out in the American with Disabilities Act (ADA); for people with disabilities, in governmental and commercial activities, the ADA is to ensure the right to equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

My starting point, given the ubiquitous nature of the web, is that separate or inferior access to web information and services, including ease of using and the comprehensibility of that information is inherently unequal for people with disabilities who seek such services. This is because equal web participation is essential to meet the integration mandate of the ADA.

In my remarks, I raise questions such as: What is equal enjoyment of the web for people with varying disabilities? How is this defined and mandated under laws such as the ADA and the 2010 Communications and Video Accessibility (CVAA), which arguably is the most important communications antidiscrimination law since passage of the ADA)? I mention the proposed U.S. Department of Justice regulations for nondiscrimination in web access under the ADA, as well as international disability nondiscrimination efforts reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Advances in Cloud Computing are poised to enhance equal web enjoyment for people with disabilities. My forthcoming book on this topic ("Towards a Right to the Web for People with Cognitive Disabilities") was commissioned by the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities at the University of Colorado, which is leading a national dialogue about cognitive disability and the implications of the Cloud. My work in this area has been furthered by leaders such as David Braddock, Clayton Lewis, and Gregg Vanderheiden. They and others are examining the tie between the Cloud and equal web enjoyment, with the goal of assuring that people with disabilities are considered in hardware and software design, regulation and standards, and usable content. I discuss the emerging issues of web security, privacy, and copyright in Cloud platforms to allow individuals to customize and leverage the web in ways that make web design and economic sense for companies and service providers. In raising more questions than answered, I hope my remarks contribute to dialogue on the right to the web for persons with disabilities and for us all.

Other references by Blanck

Peter Blanck, Towards a Right under the ADA to Web Access for People with Cognitive Disabilities, The Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities, Abstract of forthcoming book (2012); available at: http://www.colemaninstitute.org/images/documents/research_development/2012CTowardsARightUnderTheADA.pdf.

Peter Blanck, Closing: Special Issue on Disability Policy and Law, Flattening the (In-Accessible) Cyber World for People with Disabilities, Assistive Technology Journal, 20, 175-80 (2008); link available at: http://bbi.syr.edu/blanck/pubs07-08.htm.

Peter Blanck & Leonard Sandler, ADA Title III and the Internet: Technology and Civil Rights, Mental & Physical Disability Law Reporter, 24(5), 855-59 (2000); available at: http://bbi.syr.edu/blanck/pubs00-02.htm.

Peter Blanck, Communications Technology for Everyone: Implications for the classroom and beyond, The Annenberg Washington Program, Washington, D.C. (1994); available at: http://www.annenberg.northwestern.edu/pubs/comtech/